

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the instant application, of which claims 1-28 were previously presented and claims 29-31 are new claims. Claims 1, 3, 7, 13, 16, 18-19, 23-24 and 27-28 have been amended to further clarify the language used in the claims and to further prosecution of the application. The Applicant submits that claims 1-31 define patentable subject matter in view of the following remarks and arguments.

Listing of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A server, comprising:
 - a network connector;
 - a processor coupled to the network connector, the processor operable to process a plurality of different types of network traffic;
 - a peripheral component interface (PCI) bridge coupled to the processor; and
 - a unified driver coupled to the PCI bridge, the unified driver operable to provide drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic.
2. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the network connector comprises an Ethernet connector.

3. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of different types of network traffic comprises ~~at least two~~two or more of common Ethernet traffic, offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.

4. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor comprises a single integrated chip.

5. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor comprises a layer 2 network interface card (L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor and a ULP processor.

6. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the TCP processor provides layer 3 processing and layer 4 processing.

7. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 5, wherein the TCP processor is shared by ~~at least two~~two or more of TCP offload traffic, Internet small computer system interface (iSCSI) traffic and/or RDMA traffic.

8. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the ULP processor provides iSCSI processing.

9. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the ULP processor provides RDMA processing.

10. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, comprising:

a server management agent coupled to the processor.

11. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the server management agent is coupled to a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

12. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, comprising:

a plurality of services coupled to the unified driver.

13. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of services comprises ~~at least two~~ two or more of a socket service, a SCSI miniport service, an RDMA service and/or a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

14. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the unified driver is coupled to a software TCP processor and to a socket service switch,

wherein the software TCP processor is coupled to the socket service switch, and

wherein the socket service switch is coupled to a socket service.

15. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor or the PCI bridge determines which of the different

types of network traffic accesses a particular service provided by the server.

16. (Currently Amended) The server according to claim 15, wherein the particular service comprises ~~at least one~~one or more of a socket service, a SCSI miniport service, an RDMA service and/or a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

17. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor, the PCI bridge or the unified driver provides a unified data and control path.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for network interfacing, comprising:

(a)—handling a plurality of different types of network traffic via a layer 2 (L2) connector;

(b)—processing the different types of network traffic in a single chip; and

(c)—determining which of the different types of network traffic accesses software services via a single data path.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the plurality of different types of network traffic comprises ~~at least two~~two or more of common Ethernet traffic, offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, ~~and~~ management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the L2 connector is a single L2 connector.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein (c) comprises employing time division multiplexing to determine which of the different types of network traffic access the software services via the single data path.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein (c) comprises dynamically allocating fixed resources between among the different types of network traffic.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, comprising:

(a) providing drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic via a unified driver.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for network interfacing, comprising:

(a)—handling a plurality of different types of network traffic via a single Ethernet connector;

(b)—processing the plurality of different types of network traffic using a layer 2 (L2) processor, a layer 3 (L3) processor, a layer 4 (L4) processor and an upper layer protocol (ULP) processor; and

(c)—providing a unified data and control path.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the L2 processor comprises a single L2 network interface card (NIC).

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the L3 processor and the L4 processor are combined into a single TCP processor.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the ULP processor comprises ~~at least one~~ one or both of an Internet small computer system interface (iSCSI) processor and/or a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, comprising:

(a) providing drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic via a single unified driver.

29. (New) A unified driver for processing network traffic comprising a single software driver to handle a plurality of different types of network traffics and network services, the network services comprises two or more of a socket service, storage service, RDMA service or keyboard/video/mouse service.

30. (New) The unified driver of claim 29, wherein said unified driver couples to an integrated chip to concurrently process a plurality of network traffics.

31. (New) The unified driver of claim 30, wherein said plurality of network traffics comprises two or more of offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.